The Blind eats many a Flye:

OR,

The Broken Damsel made Whole.

The Tune of, My Father gave me a House and Land.

OF late there was a Damsel mild,
as I have heard for certain,
To London went being with Child,
and there to try her fortune:
Where soon she had a Master got,
with whom she was well pleased;
A Widdower old and rich, God wot,
whereby her Joys encreased:
For I have heard it spoken plain,
if that a Girl be undone,
She quickly is made whole again
if she goes up to London.

This Girl went with the Carrier up,
that in the Country lived;
And for to leave this pretty Duck,
I think no sir he grieved:
For he his payment had indeed,
although the Girl was weary,
And she a Master got with speed,
which made her blith and merry;
Whereby it now appeareth plain,
if that a Girl be undone
She is quickly made whole again
if she goes up to London.

This Girl but a small time had been
with this Man on a tryal,
But her to woe he did begin,
and would have no denyal;
But she having a nimble Wit,
unto him thus replyed,
And said, the Match it was not fit,
his Suit must be denyed;
And thus then by her flattering Speech,
knowing that she was undone,
By this Man was made whole again,
when she came up to London.

(Quoth she) I have in the Country
great store of wealth and riches,
And many for to wed with me,
indeed their Fingers itches,
Both Gentlemen and Tradesmen brave
to me did sue for favour,
And many a Youth my love did crave,
but all have lost their labour:
Amongst these Gallants good and bad,
the best I might have chosen;
For I great store of Suitors had,
full thirteen to the dozen.

A Goldsmith and a Mercer brave,
a Silkman and a Draper,
Three wealthy Heirs, young Gentlemen,
the which could rant and vapor;
A Feltmaker and a Shoemaker,
a Glover, Weaver, and Taylor,
A Tanner and a Currier,
and a bold-hearted Saylor:
But yet I loved the Saylor best,
but for my Friend's displeasure,
I had followed him from East to West,
and served him at his pleasure.

Yet still he followed on his Suit,
and woo'd this Girl most stoutly,
And she like to a Virgin mute,
did stand it out devoutly.
At last upon Conditions he
the Fort from her obtain'd,
And she surrendred quietly,
whereby he profit gain'd:
On these conditions both agreed,
which you shall hear hereafter,
When you the Articles do read,
it then will cause some laughter.

The Articles agreed upon, are these:

Woman, *You shall not go to law with my Father for my Portion.* Man, *I will not.*
Wom. *You shall not call my Children Bastards to prove your self a Cuckold.* Man, *Not I upon my honesty.*
Wom. *You shall not be jealous if I go with another Man to drink a Cup of Sack.*
Man, *Indeed Sweet-heart I hate such Thoughts.*
Wom. *On this Condition, Hand and Heart I give to thee till Death us part.*
Man, *And I will prove as true to thee, Come let us kiss and married be.*

The Articles being sealed indeed,
the matter was so carried,
A Priest they sent for with all speed,
and so they both were married.
But mark what after did betide,
which caused the Man to wonder,
At three days end his lusty Bride
was strangely taln asunder;
She had one Boy and eke a Girl
which the Midwife brought unto him,
Which made him scratch where it did not itch,
and said it would undo him.

The Midwife prayed him be content,
his Bride was young and fair,
You have no cause for to repent,
you have a lusty Heir:
There's some would give a thousand pound
for such a Boy I tell ye,
But such fruits are not in some lounds
for want of a great Belly:
Then pray come and love your Wife,
and so be reconciled,
You are not the first, upon my life,
the which hath been beguiled.

So straight he went into the Hall,
and did salute each neighbour,
And kindly drank unto them all,
and thank'd them for their labour.
In merryment he there did say,
if all be Gold doth glister,
My Wife has Lands for her brave Boy,
and Money for his Sister:
For surely I must love her dear,
she is both young and fair,
And by her it doth appear,
a very rich Man's Heir.

To go into the Country both
his Wife he oft intreated,
At last she yields, but very loath,
knowing that him she had cheated:
But when that they came to her Dad,
this jest is worth the telling,
His House and Goods and all he had
was scarce worth forty shilling;
Her Friends on which she did so boast,
good folks by Almes do cherish,
And their poor House built at the cost
and charges of the Parish.

Said he, Are these your Friends indeed,
where's your great Wealth and Treasure,
I married you in haste and speed,
but may repent at leisure.
The Blind (I see) catch many a Flie,
and I must be contented;
For Marriage goes by Destiny:
I can no way prevent it.
And so to London back they go,
having receiv'd no profit;
The Articles do bind him so,
he dares say nothing of it.

You Shopkeepers and Tradesmen light,
that live in London City,
I do you all with Love invite
to read this pleasant Ditty:
Some Tradesmen to the Country sends
bad Wares and broken Glasses,
And Country Lads, to make amends,
send them up broken Lasses:
If a Country Girl do chance to dance,
and by that Jig be undone,
She quickly is made whole again
by some Tradesmen in London.

So to conclude my merry Jest,
the which is worth the reading,
My love to you it is exprest;
I wish you good proceeding.
Young Men and Maids of each degree,
Widdowers and Widdows lusty,
In perfect love, without flattery,
be constant, true and trusty:
So need you not for to complain
like to some girls being undone,
Nor seek to be made whole again
by going up to London.

Printed for P. Brooksby, at the Golden-Ball, in Pye-corner.